

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 30 with the following:

The advantage of the progressive system is that the bonus pools from individual machines can be pooled to form larger awards that in turn attract more players. When taken to the extreme, progressive bonuses can be pooled together not only from machines in different areas of the casino, but also from different casinos in different states. More complex examples for bonusing are implemented using bonus servers over a network, such as disclosed in ~~co-pending application no. 08/843,411, filed April 15, 1997 and assigned to the Assignee of the present application (the '411 application)~~ co-owned U.S. Pat. No. 6,319,125 (the '125 patent), which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. Also incorporated herein by reference for all purposes is U.S. Patent No. 5,655,961, assigned to the Assignee of the present application (the '961 patent), which also discloses bonuses that can be implemented by bonus servers over a network.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 29 with the following:

Bonus servers 44, 46 each comprise a microcomputer used to control bonus applications on the network. Each bonus application comprises a set of rules for awarding jackpots in excess of those established by the pay tables on each EGM. For example, some bonus awards may be made randomly, while others may be made to linked groups of EGMs operating in a progressive jackpot mode. Examples of bonuses that can be implemented on the network are disclosed in ~~co-pending application no. 08/843,411, filed April 15, 1997 and assigned to the Assignee of the present application (the '411 application)~~ co-owned U.S. Pat. No. 6,319,125 (the '125 patent), which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. This ~~co-pending application~~ The '125 patent also describes in more detail features of the network, like that shown in FIG. 1, that may be used to implement the present invention. The '961 patent also discloses bonuses that can be implemented by bonus servers 44, 46 and a network that could be used to implement the present invention.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7 with the following:

As used herein the term *jackpot* indicates an award made resulting from the pay table on one of the EGMs while the term *bonus* indicates an award that does not result from the machine's pay table. The '411 application, '125 patent and '961 patent include many examples of bonuses.

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The term *award* is intended to encompass any payment given to a player of one of the EGM's and includes both jackpots and bonuses.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 12 with the following:

FIG. 2 illustrates a gaming machine 12 constructed according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. Included is a highly schematic representation of an electronic slot machine -- typical of each of the machines in the network -- that incorporates network communications hardware as described hereinafter. This hardware is described in the '961 patent, and is referred to therein as a data communications node. Preferably the network communications hardware is like that disclosed in the '411 application '125 patent, namely a machine communication interface (MCI) 50.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 19 with the following:

Card reader 60 reads a player-tracking card 66 that is issued by the casino to individual players who choose to have such a card. Card reader 60 and player-tracking card 66 are known in the art, as are player-tracking systems, examples being disclosed in the '961 patent and '411 application '125 patent. Briefly summarizing such a system, a player registers with the casino prior to commencing gaming. The casino issues a unique player-tracking card to the player and opens a corresponding player account or record that is stored in a database of other player accounts stored on accounting system 38 (in FIG. 1). Accounting system 38 is referred to herein as a host computer. It should be appreciated, however, that the host computer can be distributed on the network and could include multiple processors or memories. The account includes the player's name and mailing address and perhaps other information of interest to the casino in connection with marketing efforts. Prior to playing one of the EGMs in FIG. 1, the player inserts card 66 into reader 60 thus permitting accounting system 38 to track player activity, such as amounts wagered and won and rate of play.